

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW\*

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\*Please refer to the first tab titled “[Acronyms](#)” for a full description of acronyms.

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## Adoption Assistance Program (AAP)\*

### DESCRIPTION:

Federal subsidies were created by Congress (through PL 96-272, the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980) to encourage the adoption of special needs children and to remove the financial disincentives for families to adopt. Recognizing that adoptive parents often experience financial difficulty meeting the special needs of children who were formerly placed in California's FC system, the state Legislature created AAP. In creating the program, the Legislature intended to benefit children in FC by providing the security and stability of a permanent home through adoption. Children may receive a federally-funded subsidy under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act or a non-federally funded subsidy per W&IC section 16120(i).

An adopted child who receives AAP benefits from California may move anywhere in the world and the adoptive parent(s) will still receive monthly subsidy payments until the age of 18 or 21, if eligible. The benefits available for AAP-eligible children may include a monthly financial benefit, medical insurance through Medi-Cal, reimbursement of nonrecurring adoption expenses (up to \$400 per child), payment for residential treatment for health and/or behavioral problems and continuation of AAP benefits in a subsequent adoption.

### FUNDING:

Effective July 2011, the AAP is funded with Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, LRF and county funds.

### ELIGIBILITY:

To meet the AAP-eligibility requirements, a child must: be under the age of 18 or a non-minor dependent; meet the three-part special needs determination; have one of Title IV-E or state eligibility paths; and be a United States citizen or a qualified alien. The responsible public agency will determine the child's eligibility for participation in the program. If the child is deemed eligible, the responsible public agency will negotiate a signed adoption assistance agreement, or a deferred adoption assistance agreement will be executed with the adoptive parents, prior to the adoption finalization.

The AAP benefit shall not exceed the age-related state-approved foster family home rate the child would have received had they not been adopted. If the child's needs require a higher level of care and supervision, they may qualify for a SCI, in addition to the basic AAP rate. A child who is developmentally delayed and a current consumer of a California Regional Center may qualify for the dual agency rate plus supplemental rate, if eligible.

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\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.

## Adoption Assistance Program (AAP)\*

### PROGRAM DATA:

Historical Funding (in millions)

FY	Total	Federal	State	County
2007-08	\$706.7	\$294.2	\$309.4	\$103.1
2008-09	\$754.1	\$314.6	\$329.6	\$109.9
2009-10*	\$798.0	\$366.8	\$323.4	\$107.8
2010-11*	\$823.2	\$370.3	\$339.7	\$113.2
2011-12	\$853.3	\$350.0	\$377.5	\$125.8
2012-13	\$895.4	\$365.9	\$397.1	\$132.4
2013-14	\$918.5	\$376.2	\$406.7	\$135.6

\* The FFP includes the impact of the ARRA adjustment.

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# Adoptions Program<sup>\*</sup>

## DESCRIPTION:

The Adoptions Program provides adoption-related services through a collaboration of public and private adoption agencies in the state. There are currently five types of adoptions in California, three of which (Agency, Independent and Intercountry) are regulated by the state and two of these (Agency and Independent) are funded by a combination of county and federal funds and offset by any collected fees. The CDSS does not regulate or fund step-parent or adult adoptions.

- **Agency Adoptions:** Through public and private adoption agencies, children who have been abused, neglected and/or exploited and are under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court are placed into homes approved for adoption when returning to their parents is not an option. Adoptions of children who have been voluntarily relinquished by parent(s) to private agencies also come under the auspices of this program but do not receive public funding.
  - **Tribal Customary Adoptions:** This type of Agency Adoption is for children who are under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court and eligible under the Social Security Act, Indian Child Welfare Act and the California W&IC sections 10553.1 and 10553.2. This type of adoption must consider the customs, laws and traditions of a child's tribe.
- **Independent Adoptions:** The primary role of a public agency in an independent adoption is to investigate a proposed adoption. The agency must present a report to the court when the biological parents choose to place their children directly with adoptive parents of their choice. Only public adoption agencies handle Independent Adoptions.

## FUNDING:

Effective July 2011, the Adoptions program is funded with Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, LRF and county funds. The counties have the option to provide their services directly, contract with another county or contract with CDSS. Private agency activities costs incurred in the adoption of a child in the custody of a public agency are reimbursed through the Private Adoption Agency Reimbursement Program (described on page four).

## ELIGIBILITY:

Private adoption agencies are required to be licensed by CDSS. While the requirements vary somewhat across the various types of adoptions, prospective adoptive parents must be assessed by an adoption agency. Similarly, children qualify for the services through the following ways: parent relinquishment to a public adoption agency; referral by the juvenile court; and an independent adoption petition. With the exception of tribal customary adoption, parental rights of birth parents must be terminated prior to adoption.

In an independent adoption, the birth parent(s) personally select the prospective adoptive family based on personal knowledge about them. The birth parent(s) place the child directly with the selected family without the involvement of an adoption agency. Additionally, adoption service providers are required, and certified by CDSS, to advise birth parents of their rights and assist the birth parents in completing an adoptive placement agreement.

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*\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.*

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## Adoptions Program<sup>\*</sup>

### ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED):

Adoption requirements are detailed in W&IC, Health and Safety Code, Family Code and regulations. They outline the requirements for both public and private operation of adoption agencies and the direct adoption services provided by licensed adoption agencies.

### OTHER PROGRAMS:

The AAP is intended to remove barriers to adoption of children with special needs, primarily those in the care of a county child welfare agency. If placed in FC, this program provides a monthly benefit payment and Medi-Cal benefits to the adoptive parent based on a negotiated agreement up to the amount the child would receive if they were in FC. For more information on AAP, refer to the AAP section.

The Private Adoption Agency Reimbursement Program reimburses private agencies for activities performed on behalf of children in the care of a public agency and who are eligible for AAP.

### OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Authorizing Statute: W&IC sections 16100 through 16106.

Agency Adoptions: Program data can be found at the CDSS Data Systems Design Bureau's website: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/res/pdf/Childtrends/AD56AAgencyAnnual.pdf>.

Independent Adoptions: Program data can be found at CDSS Data Systems Design Bureau's website: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/res/pdf/Childtrends/AD56DIndependentAnnual.pdf>.

Intercountry Adoptions: Program data can be found at the United States Department of State's website: [http://adoption.state.gov/about\\_us/statistics.php](http://adoption.state.gov/about_us/statistics.php). Intercountry adoptions must meet the requirements of the International Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, an international agreement to safeguard intercountry adoptions. This convention became effective in the United States on April 1, 2008.

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*\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.*

# CalFresh<sup>\*</sup>

## DESCRIPTION:

CalFresh (formerly known as food stamps) is California's version of the federal SNAP, an entitlement program that provides monthly benefits to assist low-income households in purchasing the food needed to maintain adequate nutritional levels.

The CFAP program provides the same benefits for eligible legal noncitizens over the age of 18 and under the age of 65 who meet all federal food stamp eligibility criteria except for their immigration status.

In general, these benefits are paid towards any food or food product intended for human consumption. Benefits may not be used for items such as alcoholic beverages, cigarettes or paper products.

National eligibility standards and benefit levels are established by the United States Congress and administered nationally by FNS. The CDSS is the designated single state agency responsible for program supervision at the state level. The counties are responsible for administration of the caseloads.

CalFresh benefits are issued through an EBT card. By using the EBT card, cardholders can access food benefits at point-of-sale terminals of retailers authorized by USDA to accept CalFresh benefits. Grocers are reimbursed directly by the federal government for the dollar value of the CalFresh benefits.

## FUNDING:

CalFresh benefits are 100 percent federally funded. Funding for CalFresh administration costs are 50 percent federal funds, 35 percent GF and 15 percent county funds, except for state-mandated program changes, which are 50 percent federal funds and 50 percent GF. The CFAP is funded 100 percent GF.

## ELIGIBILITY:

To participate in CalFresh, households must meet certain income-eligibility standards. The gross income limit is 200 percent of FPL (with certain exceptions), and the net income limit is 100 percent of the FPL. Households that include at least one member who is age 60 or older or disabled only have to meet the net income limit.

There are two categories of CalFresh households: Public Assistance households are those households in which all members receive benefits from the CalWORKs program; and Non-Assistance households are those households in which at least one member does not receive CalWORKs benefits.

Other eligibility factors include residency, citizenship and registration for employment.

### Modified Categorical Eligibility

Households who qualify for Modified Categorical Eligibility, a policy to approve CalFresh benefits without regard to other resources, must have income at or below 200 percent of FPL and meet all other factors of eligibility. These households are conferred Modified Categorical Eligibility through receiving or having access to the TANF-funded "Family Planning – PUB 275" brochure.

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*\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.*

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# CalFresh<sup>\*</sup>

## ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED):

Households who receive or are eligible to receive cash assistance under CalWORKs or General Assistance/General Relief programs are categorically eligible for CalFresh. This means that CalFresh defers to CalWORKs and General Assistance/General Relief eligibility factors.

## OTHER PROGRAMS:

### CFAP

The CFAP is a state-funded program for legal noncitizen adults who meet all federal SNAP eligibility criteria except they have resided in this country for fewer than five years.

### Transitional CalFresh Benefits

The Transitional CalFresh Program continues benefits for families terminating participation in the CalWORKs program without the need to re-establish CalFresh eligibility. Households that lose their CalWORKs cash aid benefits receive five months of Transitional CalFresh benefits, unless the reason for losing CalWORKs makes them ineligible to Transitional CalFresh.

### Restaurant Meal Program

The Restaurant Meal Program is an optional county program that enables certified homeless, disabled and elderly CalFresh households to use benefits to purchase meals at participating restaurants. The counties that currently operate a Restaurant Meal Program include Alameda, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Diego, San Mateo and San Luis Obispo Counties. These counties comprise just over 40 percent of the state's total CalFresh caseload.

### Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention

To improve the health and nutrition of California's low-income residents, CDSS has contracted with partner agencies and initiated county projects to provide Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention services. The goals are to increase fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity levels among the CalFresh and potentially CalFresh-eligible populations.

The UC Davis' Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention program provides the following: nutrition classes for CalFresh-eligible adults in classroom settings; training for teachers in low-income schools to use university-developed nutrition education youth curricula in their classroom; and works with low-income schools to provide services to parents.

The CDPH administers a statewide collaboration of local governmental and non-profit agencies to provide nutrition education services and activities to meet the needs of local areas. The CDPH Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention program also initiates social marketing campaigns in targeted low-income areas using mass media, including billboards, television spots, printed materials and radio.

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*\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.*



## CalFresh<sup>\*</sup>

### OTHER PROGRAMS (CONTINUED):

The CDSS nutrition education projects include Get Fresh, which provides funding to CWDs to coordinate efforts and implement focused nutrition education interventions geared towards the needs of local low-income communities. In addition, CDSS oversees SNAP-Ed funded partnerships with CDA and the CDFA to provide Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention services to their targeted low-income audiences.

#### CalFresh Employment and Training Program

The CalFresh Employment and Training Program is an optional county program designed to improve employability and increase self-sufficiency of Non-Assistance CalFresh applicants and recipients. The CalFresh Employment and Training Program participants are assigned to components that include job club, job search, workfare, vocational training and basic education, including English as a second language. Participants are reimbursed for transportation and other ancillary costs needed to take part in CalFresh Employment and Training Program. Those who are required to participate in employment and training and fail to do so without a good reason are temporarily ineligible for CalFresh benefits.

#### Disaster CalFresh Program

The Disaster CalFresh Program establishes temporary eligibility standards for victims of a disaster, such as a flood, fire or earthquake. A major disaster is determined by declaration of the President of the United States. Some disaster expenses, such as costs to repair damage to home or property necessary to continue work, temporary shelter expenses and expenses for moving out of an evacuated area are taken into consideration when determining eligibility for disaster food benefits. If eligible, benefits are issued on the same day or within 72 hours from the time of application. Recipients who are eligible and receive benefits during a disaster are not required to repay these benefits.

### PROGRAM DATA:

Two types of error rates are used to measure program performance for CalFresh. The active error rate measures whether a household is receiving the correct allotment of benefits. States that have an active error rate of six percent or higher for two consecutive FFYs are subject to federal fiscal sanctions. California's active error rate for FFY 2013 was 3.63 percent. The unregressed rate for FFY 2014 is 5.11 percent. The case and procedural error rate measures whether a case was accurately denied or terminated and if procedures like adequate notice were correctly followed. Currently, there are no fiscal liabilities associated with the case and procedural error rate.

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*\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.*

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# CalWORKs<sup>\*</sup>

## DESCRIPTION:

The CalWORKs program is California's version of the federal TANF program and provides temporary cash assistance to meet basic family needs. It also provides education, employment and training programs to assist the family's move toward self-sufficiency. Components of CalWORKs include time limits on eligibility, work requirements, supportive services to encourage program participation and parental responsibility.

## FUNDING:

CalWORKs is funded with a mix of federal, state, county and realignment funds. California receives an annual \$3.7 billion TANF block grant. To receive TANF funds, California must provide a minimum level of state expenditures, or MOE, of \$2.9 billion annually. State-only programs funded with GF are countable towards the MOE requirement. Approximately 2.5 percent of assistance payments are county-funded. Other county funds are made available through subaccounts from realignment to fund CalWORKs assistance payments. Additionally, California spends GF on CalWORKs programs which are not counted as MOE.

## ELIGIBILITY:

To meet eligibility requirements, families must meet income and asset tests. In addition, children must be deprived of parental support and care due to the incapacity, death or absence of a parent or unemployment of the principal wage-earner. Persons fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or confinement after conviction of a felony are not eligible for CalWORKs.

### Time Limits

State law provides for a cumulative 48-month lifetime limit on cash aid for adults. Children of adults who exhaust the 48-month time limit may continue to receive cash aid, if otherwise eligible, up to age 18.

### Work Requirements

A "work focused" attitude is fostered through strict work requirements. Parents and caretaker adults, unless exempt from work requirements, are required to participate in WTW activities as a condition of receiving aid. The WTW activities include unsubsidized and subsidized employment, work experience, on-the-job training, grant-based on-the-job training, work study, self-employment, community service, adult basic education, job skills training, vocational education, job search/job readiness assistance, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, domestic abuse services and other activities necessary to assist recipients in obtaining employment.

An adult in a one-parent AU is required to participate in WTW activities for an average of 30 hours per week during the month or an average of 20 hours per week for a parent with a child under age six. In a two-parent AU, one or both adults must participate in WTW activities for a combined total average of 35 hours per week. Adults may receive a total of 24 months of CalWORKs services and activities pursuant to a county plan. These 24 months need not be consecutive and can be used at any time during the adult's 48 months of eligibility. Once the 24 months have been exhausted, adults must meet the federal work participation requirements, unless they are exempt or receive an extension.

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## CalWORKs<sup>\*</sup>

### ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED):

The CalWORKs program has a “universal engagement” requirement to ensure recipients are participating in appropriate WTW activities as soon as possible. Counties are required to develop WTW plans with a recipient within 90 days from the date an individual begins receiving cash aid.

#### Supportive Services

Supportive services, including child care, transportation, ancillary expenses, mental health and substance abuse services, as well as personal counseling are available for families participating in WTW activities. If needed supportive services are not available, the recipient has good cause for not participating.

#### Parental Responsibility

The CalWORKs program encourages parental responsibility by requiring parents to immunize their aided child under the age of six, and cooperation with child support enforcement. Failure to meet these requirements results in a reduction of the adult’s portion of the grant.

### OTHER PROGRAMS:

#### Cal-Learn Program

Special supportive services and intensive case management services are also available for pregnant and parenting teens. These services are provided through the Cal-Learn Program, which is designed to encourage pregnant and parenting teens to return to and/or stay in school. The Cal-Learn Program teens can get bonuses or be sanctioned four times a year depending on the teen’s grades. An additional bonus is given to each teen upon earning a high school diploma or equivalent. Participation in the Cal-Learn Program is mandatory for pregnant or parenting teens ages 18 and under and voluntary for specified 19-year-olds.

#### Family Stabilization Program

The Family Stabilization program provides intensive case management and services in addition to those provided by the county’s WTW program to families who are experiencing an identified situation or crisis. Additional services include treatment for family members, intensive day treatment, non-medical outpatient drug free treatment, residential treatment, emergency shelter, movement to transitional housing, rehabilitative services and/or substance abuse counseling and treatment.

#### CalWORKs Housing Support Program

The CalWORKs Housing Support program provides rental assistance, security deposits, utility payments and moving costs to families that are experiencing homelessness or housing instability that would be a barrier to self-sufficiency or child well-being. This is an optional program which may or may not be available at all CWDs.

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# CalWORKs<sup>\*</sup>

## OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION:

### Participation Rates

State WPR requirements are designed to assist in meeting federal WPR in order for California to avoid fiscal penalties. Federal WPR requirements are as follows: 50 percent of all families with work-eligible adults (both one and two-parent) must be working or in a countable work activity for an average of 30 hours per week or an average of 20 hours per week for a parent with a child under age six; 90 percent of families with two work-eligible adults must be working or in a work activity for a combined total average of 35 hours per week. The federal government can assess penalties on the state for not achieving the required WPRs. In California, counties that do not achieve the federal participation rates will share in any such fiscal penalties. For a history of California's TANF WPR, please refer to the Reference Documents tab of this binder.

### County Field Monitoring Visits and County Peer Reviews

The CDSS conducts county field monitoring visits and county peer reviews to monitor county implementation of the CalWORKs program, evaluate the impact of program changes and uncover best practices to ensure that CalWORKs families move toward self-sufficiency.

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*\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.*

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## CalWORKs Child Care Program<sup>\*</sup>

### DESCRIPTION:

The state's child care system includes several programs, each addressing different child care needs. The CalWORKs Child Care Program was established in 1997 to provide subsidized services for welfare program participants and low-income families. CalWORKs child care is administered in three stages. Stage One is administered by CDSS, while Stages Two and Three are administered by CDE. Stages One and Two services are considered entitlements. Stage Three services for former CalWORKs recipients are intended, by the Legislature, to be funded (Education Code 8447).

### FUNDING:

The chart below shows the FY 2014-15 Appropriation for child care programs, including those administered by CDE.

2014-15 Appropriation (\$ millions)		
	Caseload	Total Cost
CalWORKs Stage One	41,469	\$366.1
CalWORKs Stage Two	51,956	\$354.5
CalWORKs Stage Three	34,563	\$219.8
Alternative Payment	29,664	\$182.3
<b>Direct Service Contracts</b>		
General Child Care	55,803	\$543.9
Migrant Care		\$27.5
After School Programs	522,390	\$705.2
Community Colleges	1,781	\$9.2
State Preschool	148,198	\$654.5
<b>Quality Programs</b>		
Other**	5,983	\$27.8
Quality Services	N/A	\$46.5
Race to the Top Funds	N/A	\$22.8
TrustLine/Self-Certification	N/A	\$5.4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>891,807</b>	<b>\$3,175.5</b>

\*\* Resource and Referral, Handicapped, Local Planning Councils, Child Care Project Initiative, Growth and Set aside. Caseload includes ONLY Handicapped and Migrant Programs.

### ELIGIBILITY:

Eligibility is based on the total income, size and need of families. To receive subsidized child care, a family cannot earn more than 70 percent of the FY 2007-08 state median income. For a family of three, that amount is \$3,518 per month. Families must have a need for care such as working or going to school. CalWORKs participants are eligible to receive subsidized child care if they are employed or if they are participating in approved WTW activities. Child care is provided for children through the age of 12 under specific conditions. Child care and development services are available for children with exceptional needs up to age 21.

<sup>\*</sup>Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.

## CalWORKs Child Care Program<sup>\*</sup>

### ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED):

#### Accessibility

In many areas of the state, there is no available space at a licensed child care center or FCCH. In addition, there is a shortage of licensed slots for infants and toddlers. As a result, families in certain communities may be impacted due to a shortage of child care.

#### Flexibility

Working families may choose child care based upon the family's need. Some families choose license-exempt care because they need care during non-traditional work hours (i.e., evenings and weekends), they want all of their children at one location, they may have cultural and language preferences or they want care to be close to their home or work.

#### RMR

Every other year, CDE completes a RMR survey of child care providers. The survey collects information on what private child care providers charge to clients in each county or market area of the state. The state uses this data to calculate the maximum reimbursement ceilings for subsidized child care services.

#### Family Fees

Some clients are required to pay a share of their child care costs, known as family fees. These fees do not apply to families receiving CalWORKs cash aid, safety net families or sanctioned families. Each family pays a single fee based on their income relative to their family size with the maximum family fee at approximately ten percent of the family's income. The family fee table is located on the CDE website at: [www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/allmbs.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/allmbs.asp).

### OTHER PROGRAMS:

#### Direct Contracts

The CDE contracts directly with child care centers and FCCHs Education Networks for a fixed number of slots. Title 5 contracted programs must meet Title 5 regulations, in addition to Title 22 regulations, and operate under more stringent ratio and staff qualification regulations than Title 22 programs.

The Direct Service Contracts are listed below:

- General Child Care and Development
- Migrant Child Care and Development
- California State Preschool Program
- Severely Handicapped Program
- California Community Colleges

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*\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.*



## CalWORKs Child Care Program<sup>\*</sup>

### OTHER PROGRAMS (CONTINUED):

#### Voucher-based Child Care

All of the programs described below provide vouchers for families to obtain care in licensed child care centers, licensed FCCHs or license-exempt care. The family is able to choose the type of care that their child receives.

- **CalWORKs Stage One Child Care:** This program provides child care to CalWORKs families when they are first engaged in work or WTW activities. The CDSS administers the Stage One child care program through the CWDs.
- **CalWORKs Stage Two Child Care:** CalWORKs families move to this program when the CWD determines they are stable, for example, after six months of participation in a WTW plan or after being employed. CWDs have the flexibility to determine when a family's situation is stable. Families remain in Stage Two until they have been off cash aid for two years. CDE contracts with Alternative Payment Program agencies, which administer this program.
- **CalWORKs Stage Three Child Care:** Families that have exhausted two years of CalWORKs Stage Two child care transition to Stage Three. This program provides care as long as funding is available and the family remains eligible. The CDE contracts with the Alternative Payment Program agencies, which administer this program.
- **Alternative Payment Program:** This program is funded by CDE through contracts with the Alternative Payment Programs. The Alternative Payment Programs may also contract with CWDs to administer Stage One Child Care. The Alternative Payment Programs help eligible families arrange child care services and makes payment for those services directly to the child care provider. The Alternative Payment Programs also support families and providers by offering assistance and consumer information about various services and resources available to them.

### OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION:

#### Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant

The Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant focuses on improving California's early learning and development programs and increasing access to high-quality programs for all young children. The grant is based on four components: (1) building a high-quality early learning system; (2) connecting early learning with K-12; (3) increasing access to quality programs; and (4) providing comprehensive support for the development of the child. California, one of nine states that was awarded funding, received \$52.6 million (of a possible \$100 million) to be utilized during the four-year grant period (January 2012 to December 2015) and later received a \$22.4 million supplemental award.

The CDE is the lead agency responsible for administering the grant, and CDSS, as a participating state agency, supports CDE's efforts in the implementation of the grant.

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*\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.*

## **CalWORKs Child Care Program<sup>\*</sup>**

### **OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION (CONTINUED):**

#### Resource and Referral

The CDE funds at least one Resource and Referral program in each county to provide information to parents and the community about the availability of child care in their county, and to assist potential providers in the licensing process and provide support services, including training. The CDSS contracts with the Resource and Referral Network to process applications for background check clearances and to maintain the TrustLine Registry. TrustLine is California's registry of license-exempt child care providers that have been through a criminal background screening and clearance process.

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*\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.*

## Child Welfare Services (CWS)\*

### DESCRIPTION:

The CWS program is California's primary statewide intervention program for abused, neglected and exploited children, and is given statutory authority through W&IC section 16500. The CDSS serves as the state oversight entity, leading a collaboration between the state's 58 county welfare and probation departments, CWDA, Chief Probation Officers of California, federal, state and local government, the Legislature, the Judicial Branch, tribal representatives, philanthropic organizations and other stakeholders. The CDSS' role is to provide supervision, fiscal and regulatory guidance and training as well as the development of policies, procedures and programs in accordance with prescribed federal and state statutes governing child welfare.

The goal of the program is to protect children at risk of child abuse and neglect or exploitation through an integrated services delivery system, and to provide intensive services to families to ensure sufficient child safety, permanency and well-being to allow families to stay together in their own homes. If county social workers, through the oversight of local juvenile courts, determine that out-of-home placement is the only safe option for a child, arrangement for temporary/sometimes permanent placement of the child in the safest and least restrictive environment possible is arranged and monitored by county child welfare agencies.

The CWS that are primarily delivered through the 58 counties include ER, FM, FR and PP services.

- The ER services are designed to provide in-person 24-hours-a-day response to reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation for the purpose of investigation. ER services determine the necessity for providing initial intake services and crisis intervention to maintain the child safely in his/her own home or to protect the safety of the child through emergency removal and FC placement.
- The FM services consist of time-limited protective services provided to families in crisis to prevent or remedy abuse or neglect, with the intent of preserving families and keeping children safely in their own homes when possible. Social workers develop a case plan that includes services appropriate to each family's unique needs.
- The FR services consist of time-limited services to children in out-of-home care to prevent or remedy neglect, abuse or exploitation when the child cannot remain safely at home. These services are aimed at assisting families when the child needs to be placed in temporary FC placement while services are made available to reunite the family.
- The PP services offer alternative family structures for children who cannot remain safely at home and/or who are unlikely to return home. The PP caseload includes children in a legal guardianship with an unrelated caregiver and those in independent living services. It also includes children with a pending guardianship with a relative or pending adoption.

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\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.

## Child Welfare Services (CWS)\*

### FUNDING:

Effective July 1, 2011, a portion of the CWS program was realigned and funded with federal, LRF and county funds. Federal funds pursuant to Titles A (TANF), IV-B (Child Welfare), IV-E (FC), XIX (Medicaid) and XX (Social Services Block Grant) of the Social Security Act and other funds are leveraged using LRF and county funds. For more information on funding post-2011 Realignment, refer to the 2011 Realignment tab. Funding from the GF is provided for non-realigned CWS programs. For more information on the non-realigned portions of CWS, refer to the specific premises contained within the Estimate Methodologies tab.

### ELIGIBILITY:

All children who have suffered or who are at risk of suffering from abuse, neglect or exploitation in families are eligible for either the federal, non-federal or county-only funded services.

### OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION:

In January 2004, the CDSS implemented a statewide accountability system that replaced a process-oriented, regulatory compliance review system. The California Child and Family Services Review System is an enhanced version of the federal oversight system used to monitor the state. The system is based on outcome data that measures key federal and state enriched performance indicators, such as the rate of recurrence of maltreatment, number of foster home placements, length of time to reunification with birth parents and the rates of adoption. Unlike the federal process, the California Child and Family Services Review System contains specifically developed measures for child and family well-being.

Under the California Child and Family Services Review System, all counties are reviewed on a five-year cycle. The review consists of a county self-assessment, which is based on the county's performance indicators and strongly influenced by local stakeholder input, a Peer Quality Case Review designed to identify and prioritize critical local needs and a System Improvement Plan. The System Improvement Plan identifies measurable improvements that the county will make annually to improve outcomes for children. The CDSS approves each county System Improvement Plan, and monitors compliance using quarterly performance reports produced from the CWS/CMS on a quarterly basis.

Transition services is a newly established caseload of young adults continuing in FC as enacted by W&IC section 366.3 beginning January 1, 2011. These services are focused on assisting the non-minor dependent in meeting the goals necessary to transition successfully to adulthood. Eligibility is contingent upon non-minor dependent's participation in employment, career development activities, education or having a medical condition that prohibits such activities.

In January 2013, the Governor's Budget approved the CWS-NS Project, a technical solution that will replace the current, outdated CWS/CMS. The CWS-NS Project will use web-based technologies to provide the flexibility and extendibility required to meet the business needs of CWS and comply with federal Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System requirements.

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\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.

## Community Care Licensing (CCL)\*

### DESCRIPTION:

The CCL is a regulatory enforcement program with the responsibility of protecting the health and safety of children and adults residing in, or spending a portion of their time in, out-of-home care. Facilities licensed by CDSS' CCL program include foster family homes and family child care homes. The foster family homes, 69 percent of which are licensed by the counties through contract with CCL, provide 24-hour non-medical care (medical care is permitted under certain circumstances) in the licensee's family residence for not more than six foster children. The family child care homes, about less than five percent of which are licensed by the counties through contract with CCL, provide child day care for up to 14 children in the licensees' own home for periods of less than 24 hours per day.

The objective of the program is to ensure all clients are served by licensed facilities that meet established standards for health and safety, which provide a homelike setting with the least restrictive environment for clients.

To achieve this objective, CCL establishes standards for health and safety in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, licenses facilities and performs facility inspections, assists providers to maintain compliance with licensing regulations and pursues administrative actions when licensing standards are not met. The CCL also conducts criminal background checks of licensees, employees and all adults providing direct services to, or having routine contact with, clients in care.

### FUNDING:

All counties provide foster family home licensing and recruitment services either through their own county or contracting with another county. Federal funding for these services is provided by Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. Funding for the remaining costs are 100 percent GF. Additional federal spending authority is included based on actual expenditures.

There are currently two counties providing family child care home licensing services. Funding for these services includes reimbursements from CDE (from the federal Child Care Development Fund Block Grant) to cover a portion of the costs of conducting comprehensive site visits. The remaining costs are funded with 100 percent GF.

### ELIGIBILITY:

Facilities licensed by counties must meet licensing standards in order to maintain the privilege of providing care and supervision.

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\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.

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## Foster Care (FC)\*

### DESCRIPTION:

The FC Program is a service that is provided in all 58 counties through the CWS system which is California's primary statewide intervention program for abused, neglected and/or exploited children. The primary payment source for FC is AFDC-FC.

Although children and youth can come into the state's FC program through several different doors, the vast majority come through a county child welfare agency as a result of being removed from their parents' custody and becoming a dependent of the juvenile court because they cannot live safely at home. Some older youth come into FC as a ward of the juvenile court on probation as a result of committing a criminal offense. Children who are being cared for by a non-related legal guardian may also receive FC benefits. Youth in FC may stay up to age 21, provided they meet certain participation criteria, or there is a verified medical condition which renders him/her incapable of meeting participation criteria.

When children or youth are removed from their parents' custody and placed in FC under the jurisdiction of the local juvenile court, state and federal laws require they be placed in the least restrictive placement necessary to meet their needs. In order of preference, the primary placement categories are:

- Non-custodial parent
- Relative or non-relative extended family member (e.g., godparent)
- Unrelated foster family home
- Supervised ILP (only for young adults)
- Foster Family Agency certified foster home
- Group Home

When children are removed from their parents' custody, state and federal laws requires that reasonable efforts be made to reunify the child with the parent(s). When it is not possible for the child to safely return to the parent(s) home, the law requires that a permanent plan be determined for the child. When permanency cannot be achieved through reunification, other options which provide the child a safe and stable permanent family must be pursued, specifically through adoption or guardianship. Reunification, adoption or guardianship are the permanency options which allow a child to leave FC and court jurisdiction.

The juvenile court plays a key role for ensuring due process and accountability when children are removed from their homes. Court hearings are held every six months to ensure reasonable efforts are being made to meet the requirements of the case plan and the needs of the child are met.

### FUNDING:

Effective July 2011, the FC program is primarily funded with federal Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, LRF and county funds. Other federal funds, such as TANF and Title XX funds, are also used for eligible program costs.

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\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.

## Foster Care (FC)\*

### ELIGIBILITY:

The six eligibility requirements to receive federal FC funding include:

- Deprivation: Deprived of a parent, by absence, death, unemployment or disability, at the time of removal and on-going.
- AFDC-FC Linkage: Home of removal (including child's income) qualifies for AFDC-FC at the 1996 income guidelines during petition month or in the six months prior to removal.
- Removal by Court Order: Language on the court order includes such phrases as: contrary to the welfare of the child to remain in the home; suitable placement and reasonable efforts made to prevent removal from the parent/guardian; or Voluntary Placement Agreement, which is only for 180 days, and then the child must reunify, be removed by a court order, be released for adoption or have the Voluntary Placement Agreement formally extended.
- Property: The child must have property and/or assets less than \$10,000.
- Residency: The child must have been a resident of California at the time when he/she entered FC.
- Citizenship: Only United States citizens, permanent legal residents or those with permanent residents under Color of Law are eligible.

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\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.



## In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)\*

### DESCRIPTION:

The IHSS programs provide an alternative to out-of-home care for low-income aged, blind and disabled individuals. The IHSS consists of four programs: Medi-Cal PCSP; IHSS Plus Option, a Medi-Cal State plan option which replaced the IPW Program; CFCO, which became effective December 1, 2011; and the Residual program.

Recipients of all IHSS programs need program services in order to remain safely in their own home and avoid out-of-home care. The IHSS services include domestic and related services (e.g., housework, meal preparation, laundry, shopping), personal care services, accompaniment to medical appointments, protective supervision for the mentally-impaired recipients who may place themselves at risk for injury, hazard, or accident and paramedical services when directed by a physician.

### ELIGIBILITY:

Recipients of PCSP, IHSS Plus Option and CFCO services must be eligible for Medi-Cal. The IHSS Plus Option recipients are not eligible for PCSP because services are provided by a spouse or by a parent of a minor child, the recipient receives advance pay or the recipient receives RMA. The CFCO recipients are determined eligible for Nursing Facility Level of Care. The Residual program serves individuals who are not eligible for Medi-Cal, but meet SSI/SSP income standards, are aged (65 or older), blind or disabled and have an assessed need for services to remain safely at home and avoid out-of-home care.

### FUNDING:

The PCSP and IHSS Plus Option programs are eligible for full scope FFP Medi-Cal at a FMAP of 50 percent. The CFCO program is eligible for FFP Medi-Cal at a FMAP of 56 percent effective December 1, 2011. The Residual program is funded by GF and county funds. The state funds 65 percent of service costs and 70 percent of county program administrative costs. The counties fund the remaining costs.

Under the CCI program, each county is responsible for paying a MOE amount instead of paying a percentage of program costs. Each county's MOE is based on program expenditures for FY 2011-12 and adjusted for savings for CFCO-eligible cases eligible for the additional six percent FMAP over a seven-month period. The MOE applies to all counties effective July 1, 2012.

Under the ACA, newly eligible Medi-Cal recipients are eligible for an enhanced FMAP of 100 percent on all services (including IHSS) through June 2016.

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\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.

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# Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP)\*

## DESCRIPTION:

The Kin-GAP program is a permanency and payment program that promotes moving a child or youth who is a dependent or ward of the juvenile court from FC to a permanent home with an approved relative or non-relative extended family member through legal guardianship. The program ensures stability through support of the legal guardian by continuing a benefit payment and the dependent's eligibility for Medi-Cal.

Changes to W&IC sections 11385 through 11393 allowed California to restructure the Kin-GAP program to meet federal eligibility requirements contained in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (PL 110-351) to draw down federal funds and to provide additional benefits to program recipients. Effective October 1, 2011, California started receiving Title IV-E FFP for Kin-GAP cases, which are federal Title IV-E eligible. The restructuring of the program included reducing the amount of time (from 12 months to six months) the dependent/delinquent youth must live with the approved relative caregiver prior to establishing legal guardianship, executing a written agreement with the approved caregiver which provides that the payment can be periodically renegotiated to address change in circumstances of the legal guardian or needs of the (former) dependent and interstate portability of benefits when the family moves outside California. The W&IC sections 11385 through 11393 also allows for an extended Kin-GAP program under certain circumstances (discussed further in the Eligibility section).

Changes to W&IC section 11391(c) expanded the definition of relative, for the federal Kin-GAP program only. The expanded definition of relative allows more youth to be eligible for a Kin-GAP payment and other associated program benefits, including interstate portability of the benefit payment and access to federal Medicaid. Previously, a child who was federally eligible while in foster care residing with the current foster parent, a non-relative extended family member, or a tribal member who became the legal guardian was not eligible for Kin-GAP benefits. Rather, the caregiver became a non-related legal guardian.

## FUNDING:

The Kin-GAP program is funded with GF and county funds, as well as Title IV-E of the Social Security Act for federally eligible cases and TANF funds for non-federally eligible cases.

## ELIGIBILITY:

The basic eligibility requirements of Kin-GAP are:

- The relative guardian has been assessed/approved as meeting licensing standards.
- Efforts to return the youth/non-minor former dependent to the parents have failed and the dependent/delinquent youth cannot return home.
- The family, approved relative and youth have no need for ongoing supervision or supportive services from the public agency.
- The approved relative is appointed legal guardian of the youth and court jurisdiction is terminated.

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\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.

## Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP)\*

### ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED):

- The agency has entered into a written, binding agreement with the legal guardian, and non-minor former dependent, if appropriate.
- To qualify for extended Kin-GAP, the youth must have been 16 years old before negotiated payments began and also meets one of five statutorily specified participation criteria. However, if there is a documented physical or mental disability, the youth may qualify for extended Kin-GAP up to age 21 no matter how old the youth was when entering the Kin-GAP program.

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\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.

## Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP)\*

### DESCRIPTION:

The OCAP receives grants associated with assisting local and private agencies in the development and strengthening of child abuse and neglect prevention, intervention and treatment programs. These include state and federal funding sources. State fund sources include CAPIT and State Children's Trust Fund. The federal grants include those under CAPTA and PSSF. The CAPTA grants consist of Title I Section 106 and Title II, otherwise known as the CBCAP grant. The CAPIT funds are used to fulfill federal CBCAP grant matching and leveraging requirements.

The CAPIT program requirements are contained in W&IC sections 18960 through 18964. With 2011 Realignment, counties may now use CAPIT funds in-house to provide direct services (i.e., home visiting, counseling, etc.) to the target population as long as federal match requirements continue to be met.

The State Children's Trust Fund provides funding for innovative child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention projects utilizing deposits generated from California birth certificate surcharges, Kids' Plates revenues and private donations. The State Children's Trust Fund is used to research, evaluate and disseminate information to the public, to establish public-private partnerships with foundations and corporations and to increase public awareness about child abuse and neglect.

The primary goals of the PSSF program are to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families and improve the quality of care and services to children and their families. The PSSF program also ensures permanency for children by reuniting them with their parents, by adoption or by another permanent living arrangement. The PSSF funding is used to support services to strengthen parental relationships and promote healthy marriages, to improve parenting skills and increase relationship skills within the family to prevent child abuse and neglect, while also promoting timely FR when children must be separated from their parents for their own safety. The PSSF funds are also to be used by child welfare agencies to remove barriers which impede the process of adoption when children cannot be safely reunited with their families and to address the unique issues adoptive families and children may face.

The W&IC section 300 was amended to clarify that under existing law, commercially sexually exploited children whose parents or guardians failed or were unable to protect them may fall within the description of 300(b) and be adjudged as dependents of the juvenile court. The W&IC sections 16524.6 through 16524.11 created the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Program, which is administered by OCAP. The Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Program is an optional program, and counties that choose to participate are required to use their funding for prevention and intervention activities and services to commercially sexually exploited children.

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\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.

## Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP)\*

### DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED):

Funding from CAPTA Title I section 106 is used by the OCAP to fund improvements statewide in areas such as:

- Content and provision of trainings and technical assistance to child welfare agencies and community organizations.
- Risk and safety assessment tools used to determine which services a family might require.
- Risk and safety assessment protocols, including implementing the use of differential response.
- The capacity of family resource centers and family support programs to provide assistance for strengthening families and communities.
- The training of parents to act as leaders in their communities, grounded in the use of the five protective factors.
- Evaluating current practices and procedures for assessments and service provision to children and their families to determine the efficacy of the practice or procedure.
- Oversight and review of prevention and intervention practices and protocols to make recommendations to state and local agencies on areas of improvement.
- The use of evidence-based research and evaluation in child welfare practices to ensure best practices are used statewide.
- Statewide data collection system for more accurate reporting and evaluation of current child protective services.
- Child welfare response to needs of commercially sexually exploited children.

### ELIGIBILITY:

Counties are not required to participate in the CBCAP program. In order to receive the allocation, counties must submit an application and report annually on activities from the previous year. Through the annual application process, counties agree to specific CBCAP requirements and assurances. Currently, 57 counties have elected to participate in the CBCAP allocation process. The CBCAP funds are used to target services to vulnerable families with children that are at risk of abuse and/or neglect. In general, CBCAP funds support primary prevention programs and activities meant to impact families prior to allegations of abuse and/or neglect and secondary prevention programs and activities that target families that have one or more risk factors, including families referred to a child welfare hotline for abuse and/or neglect.

The CAPIT target population includes children who are at high risk, children who are being served by CWDs for abuse and/or neglect and other children who are referred for services by legal, medical or social services agencies and their families.

### PROGRAM DATA:

A total of 638,103 individuals and families were served using CBCAP, CAPIT and PSSF funds during FFY 2012, with an additional 975,269 individuals receiving information and referrals. Under CBCAP, 4,684,796 individuals received public awareness and education materials.

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\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.

# Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP)\*

## DESCRIPTION:

The SSI/SSP provides a monthly cash benefit to enable aged, blind and disabled recipients to meet basic living expenses for food, clothing and shelter. The SSA administers and issues SSI and SSP payments concurrently as a single benefit in California under a contract between SSA and the state. Each state sets its own SSP rates and living arrangement categories. All SSI recipients receive SSP, but recipients with other income exceeding the SSI payment standard may receive only SSP.

The SSA performs all functions related to the administration of SSP (e.g., receive and process the application, determine disability, detect and collect overpayments, issue payments and notices, and handle appeals). The contract also contains a description of the SSP living arrangements and sets out both the state's and SSA's rights and responsibilities.

Under current federal law, states must meet the MOE requirements. Under the MOE requirements, states must either maintain the SSP levels that existed in calendar year 1983 or match the total SSP expenditures that they paid in the preceding calendar year. California has always used the payment level method to meet the MOE requirement. Failure to meet the MOE requirements would result in loss of federal funding for Medi-Cal. Currently, California's SSP rates have been reduced to those that existed in calendar year 1983 except for three living arrangement categories: (1) the Restaurant Meal Allowance; (2) Title XIX Medical Facility; and (3) Non-Medical Out Of Home Care. The state cannot reduce SSP payments further unless the total expenditure method can be used to meet MOE requirements.

## FUNDING:

The SSI is a federally-funded benefit. The SSP is a payment added to the SSI benefit and funded by the state's GF. In calendar year 1994, the SSA started charging a per-check administrative fee for its administration of SSP. The fee increases each year based on a COLA provided by the SSA.

## ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for SSI/SSP, a person must be at least 65 years-old, blind, or disabled (including blind or disabled children). A qualified recipient must file an application with SSA. Federal criteria are used to determine eligibility. A qualified SSI recipient is automatically qualified for SSP. To be eligible for SSI and maintain eligibility, a person must meet certain income and resource requirements.

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\*Please refer to the first tab titled "[Acronyms](#)" for a full description of acronyms.

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